

SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO CLEAN SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
FY 11



PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

- Inform the Council and the Public
- Comply with State Reporting Requirements
- Highlight Successes, Concerns, Trends

WHY SYRINGE EXCHANGE?

- **Scientifically Proven Public Health Program To Reduce HIV/AIDS And HCV**
 - Numerous respected institutions endorse
 - SD 3rd highest AIDS rate in CA
 - 2000+ HCV diagnoses last year in SD
- **Prevent Re-use Of Syringes; Spread Of Infection Among Injection Drug Users**
 - Second leading cause of HIV transmission
 - #1 cause of HCV transmission

WHY SYRINGE EXCHANGE?

- Protect the public, police, emergency and environmental services personnel from infection from syringes improperly discarded in trash, parks, beaches
- A gateway for referral to drug treatment, HIV counseling, health care, and other services

SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO

- Mobile unit operated by Family Health Centers
Downtown and North Park
3 hours Thursday evening and Friday morning
- 2001 – 2005 bi-weekly emergency declaration
- 2006 – State law changes to permit establishment through a single legislative act. July 06 Council resolution.

SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO

Initial Visit

- 2 syringes
- Identification card
- Demographic data

Ongoing

- One for one exchange up to 30
- Harm reduction and health kits
- Referrals

FISCAL YEAR 2011

- 15% increase in use
- 7% more syringes collected
- 77% reduction in referrals

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 69% Male (Down from 75% in FY10)
- Median age 31. (Down from 41 in FY06.)
- 76% White (Up from 69% in FY10)
- 75% High School or more
- 29% Employed
- 62% have own place to live

TRENDS AND CONCERNS

Increased utilization

- Word of Mouth
- Economy?

Declining median age

- Increased 18-24 age group

Reduction in Referrals

- Increased utilization
- Reduced funding
- Cuts to other service providers

FUNDING

- Alliance Healthcare Foundation
 - Shift in philanthropic priorities
- FHCS D Commitment
 - Continue to provide the program as long as possible while aggressively seeking program funding.
- Federal Ban
 - Lifted, but no new funds
 - Uncertain future

FACILITATION COMMITTEE

- 2006 Council Resolution called for it to be re-established. Members appointed by the Mayor.
- 7 Members and 2 Ex Officio Reps
 - Emergency Medical Services Director (Chair)
 - SANDAG
 - Private Foundation
 - 2 Public Health Experts
 - At Large Community Member
 - Program Operator
 - Police Department

FACILITATION COMMITTEE

- Review the status of the program and issues relevant to its operation;
- Approve recommendations to adjust or add days/hours of service
- Recommend new sites to City Council as needed

CONCLUSION

- A proven successful public health and safety strategy
- Improper disposal of more than 1.5M syringes prevented
- Need continues to increase
- The challenge is to find adequate resources